

BOARD OF HEALTH VIRTUAL MEETING

Tuesday June 2, 2020 – 5:00 PM – via Zoom

PRESENT: Peter Cohen, Chair; Andy Fisher; Fred Schubert; Louise Maron; John Olander, Agent; Phyllis LeBeau, Recording Secretary; Emilie Jarrett, R.N., Comm. Health Assn.; Danielle Fillio, Town Administrator

ABSENT: Tony Segal

Peter opened the virtual meeting with a reading of the Governor's Directive on the changes to the Open Meeting Law for the duration of the COVID-19 emergency.

Approval of Minutes: Fred Schubert moved that all minutes of previous meetings not approved at earlier meetings and the notes from the May 19th Telephone call be approved as read. The motion was seconded by Louise and passed with unanimous consent.

OLD BUSINESS:

Signage for Beach, Various Venues, Library: Peter reported that he has been placing signs in various locations advising that anyone entering those premises must wear a mask and gloves.

NEW BUSINESS:

Testing Pond Water: John was able to report that the water testing at the Pond had begun, but the first results have not yet been received.

In response to a question about mosquito spraying in Richmond it was noted that the State will be expanding the program for Eastern Massachusetts. No one was aware of whether the process had begun in Richmond.

Beach and Camp Russell Openings: Emilie Jarrett provided the extensive list of new COVID-19 regulations that camps must follow. A discussion of some of the specific rules led to a general belief that Camp Russell will not be able to open this summer. Peter will contact Laura Kittross of the Alliance to discuss the situation.

The Float at Richmond Pond has been put in place. The Board was in agreement that it creates a danger of contamination and asked Danielle to have it removed. She will ask Peter Beckwith to take care of that.

Beach lifeguards – so far there is only one hired. She prefers not to work alone, so there will be no lifeguard present until a second one can be hired. A checklist from Sandra Martin, outlining the regulations for use of the beach, will be posted at the site and copies will be made for the lifeguards to hand out to visitors.

8th Grade Graduation: Peter noted that Jill Pompey, the School Principal, has put together an excellent plan for a graduation scheduled for June 16th. Fred asked if there was a long-range plan in place for the reopening of the school for the 2020 school year. That will have to wait for further instruction from the Governor.

The Tennis Court has been opened and regulations for its use have been posted.

Wearing Masks: Peter asked that the members of the Board of Health consistently wear masks in public if only to set a good example.

Boat Ramp – Boat Ramp Monitors: Guidelines for the use of the boat ramp have been drafted and copies will be made to provide handouts that the Monitors can distribute. In addition, there will signs posted with those regulations. A discussion of compliance and enforcement led to the consensus that compliance will have to be a matter of individual conscience and that no Town Employees have enforcement authority. In the case of any

disturbance, the State Police will be called. Danielle reported that she is seeking to hire a new Boat Monitor. She will arrange for copies of the guidelines to be kept in the office next to the clean boat forms.

Emilie Jarrett, RN Report: An update on Mass. shows no tick-borne illnesses in Richmond for the past two months. The DPH has begun reporting confirmed and probable cases of COVID-19 beginning March 1st. The intent is to show how much transmission of the disease has actually occurred in Mass.

www.mass.gov/2019coronavirus is the website for the daily COVID-19 dashboard numbers.

People are getting the antibody tests to see if they have developed antibodies to COVID-19. It is still unclear if immunity occurs after an infection. Definitions: Confirmed Case – positive molecular test (PCR swab) are counted as confirmed. Probable Case – Positive serology/antibody test and either COVID-like symptoms or likely exposure to the disease are counted as probable cases. No laboratory test done, but the death certificate lists the disease as a cause of death is counted as probable deaths from COVID-19.

Those new definitions explain the increase of reported cases, but Richmond's number of cases has remained steady at 5. The State is watching for the indicators to be trending down before they decide on what Phase Two will look like.

Board of Health Agent Report: John expanded as best he could on the report (attached here) that he did not have available on his computer.

Library Reopening: Peter reported that he is working with the Library to create a shield around the front desk for the library's reopening. They have instituted a service where people can call the Library and request a book. The library will put the book in a bag and leave it outside the door with that person's name on it.

Transfer of Chairmanship: The Board will ask Tony Segal to pick up the position for the next six months. Peter will be available to him for continuity. The members of the Board thanked Peter and Emilie for the work they have been doing during this most difficult time.

Unanticipated Item: Louise asked if anyone knew why the Town's Emergency Siren went off at 4:10 AM. Danielle said that no one actually set it off and no one knows how it happened.

Next Meeting Date: As usual, the next Board of Health meeting will take place on Tuesday July 7, 2020.

There being no further business before the Board, Fred moved that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded by Andy and adopted by unanimous vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:05 PM